MARVEL

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J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI | WILL ROBSON

DOCTOR DOOM & ROCKET RACCOON

WITH ANDREW DALHOUSE

ONE-SHOT

RATED T+

MARVEL

CONGRATULATES THE 2024 HARVEY AWARD HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES:

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THE MARVEL UNIVERSE IS FILLED WITH AN INFINITE ARRAY OF BEINGS: HUMANS, ALIENS, HEROES, VILLAINS, GODS, MORTALS, MONSTERS, CREATURES AND EVERYTHING ELSE THAT FALLS IN BETWEEN THE CRACKS OF REALITY. THIS IS BUT A MERE GLIMPSE AT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TWO WORLDS COLLIDE. FRIEND OR FOE? ALLY OR ENEMY? YOU DECIDE WITH...

DOCTOR DOOM & ROCKET RACCOON

Born to a poor nomad and an ill-fated witch, **Victor Von Doom** used his talent for combining sorcery and technology to take over the European country of Latveria, making him one of the most powerful people on the planet. Doom is, and forever will be, inevitable.

Rocket, one of the smartest technicians, tacticians and weapon wielders in the universe, is a genetically and cybernetically enhanced--through painful means--raccoon, who spends his days traversing and guarding the galaxy!

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ROCKET RACCOON CREATED BY **BILL MANTLO** & **KEITH GIFFEN**

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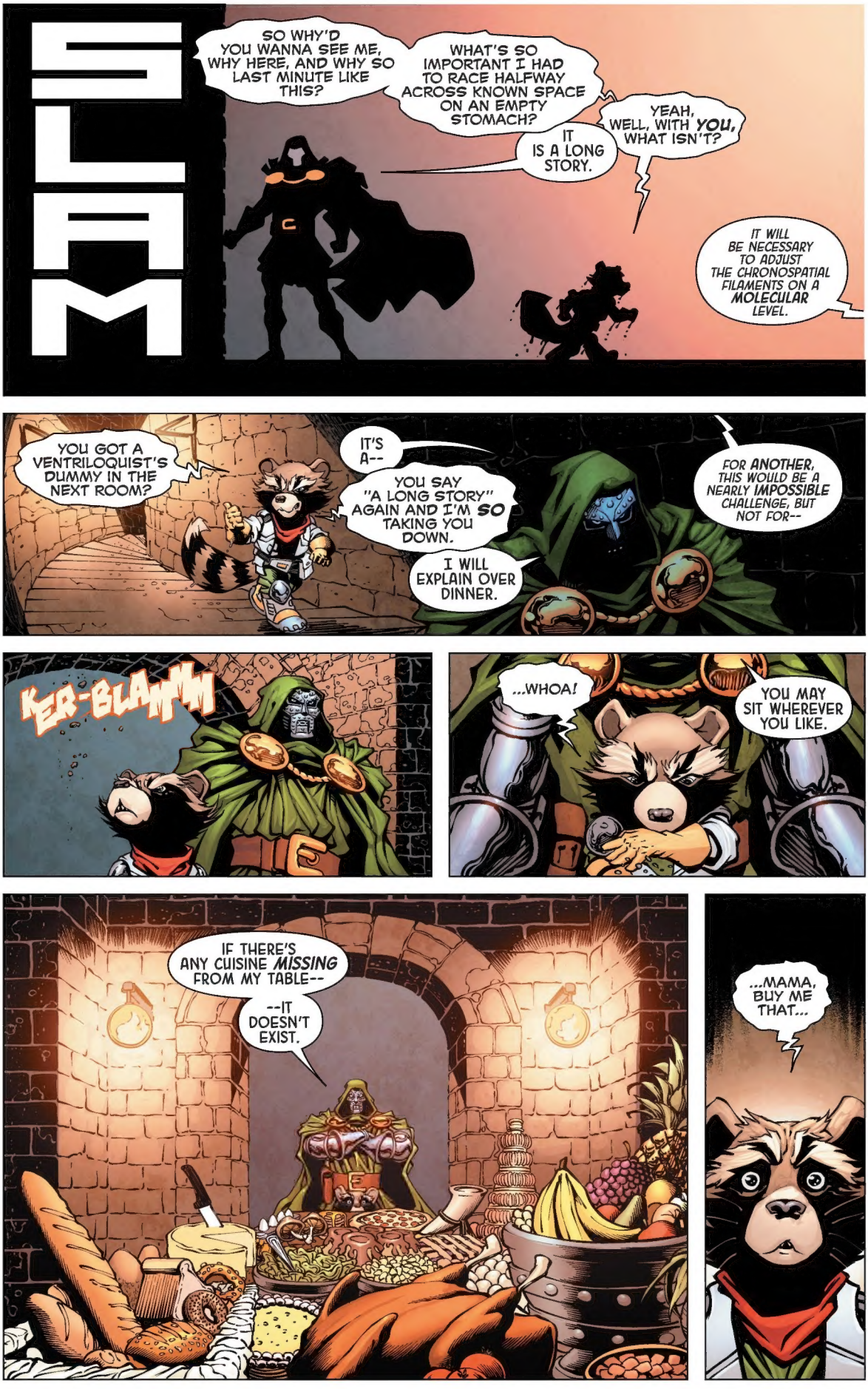
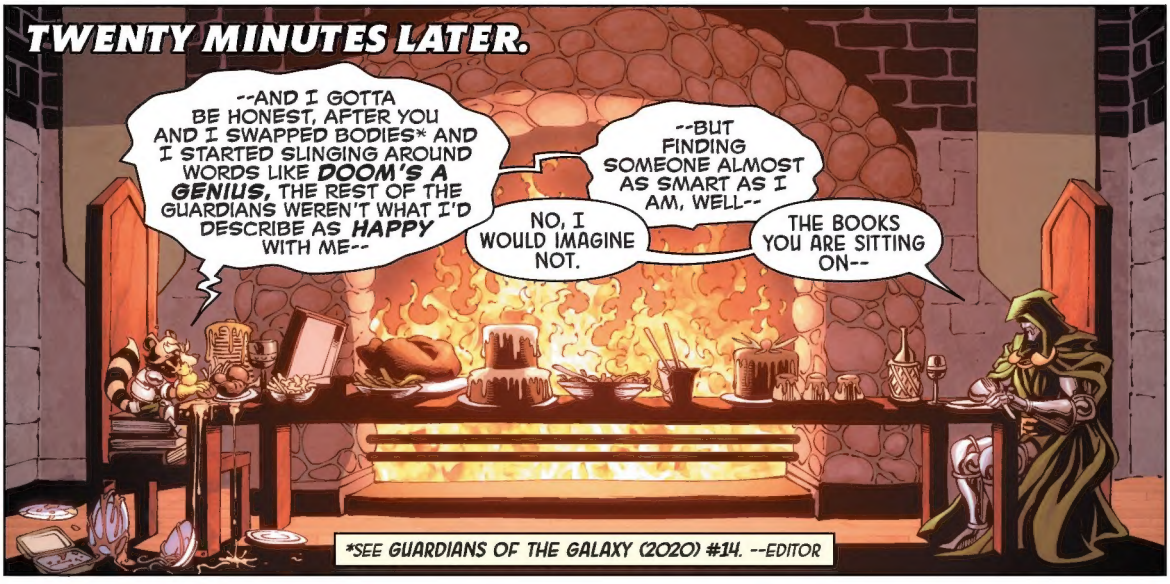
LATVERIA.
"YES, THE STRUCTURAL LATTICE MUST BE MADE MUCH MORE ELEGANT AND SUBTLE."
IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ADJUST THE CHRONOSPATIAL FILAMENTS ON A MOLECULAR LEVEL.

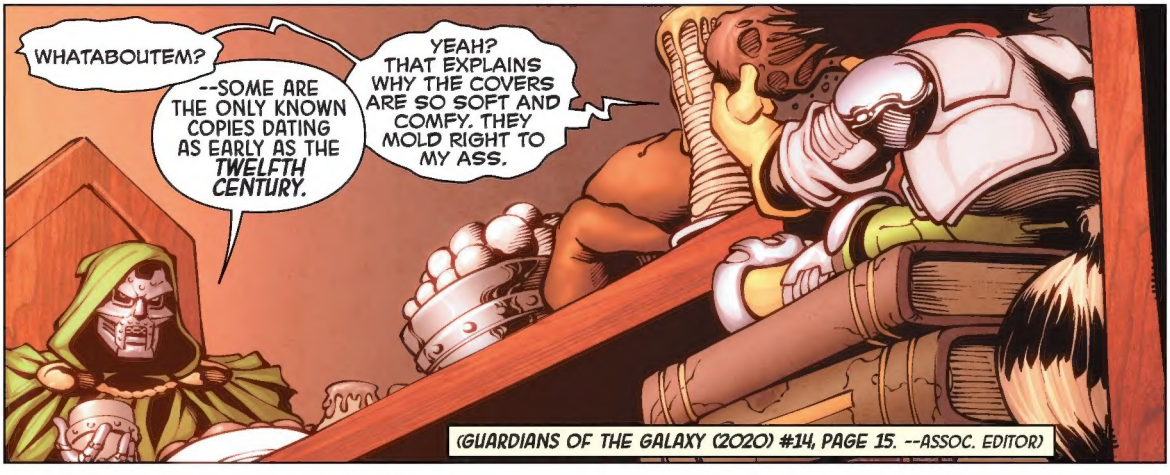
FOR ANOTHER, THIS WOULD BE A NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE CHALLENGE, BUT NOT FOR--
ER-BLAMM
FRITZ
CRACKLE
FOOP
→SIGH←
CRASH
DOOMBOT 279, COME FORTH.
BOOM BOOM BOOM
IT SEEMS WE HAVE A GUEST. CONTINUE THE WORK. I SHALL RETURN.
YES, MASTER.

YES, THE STRUCTURAL LATTICE MUST BE MADE MUCH MORE ELEGANT AND SUBTLE.
YO, DOWN HERE.
THERE WAS NO PLACE NEARBY TO LAND MY SHIP SO I HAD TO LAND WAY THE HELL AWAY AND FREAKING WALK.

"THIRTEEN DAYS OF DOOM!"
J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI WRITER
WILL ROBSON ARTIST
ANDREW DALHOUSE COLOR ARTIST
VC's CORY PETIT LETTERER
I'M COLD.
I'M TIRED.
AND YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW LONG IT TAKES TO DRY FUR LIKE THIS, EVEN WITH A GOOD HAIR DRYER.
SO, YOU GONNA LET ME IN, OR SHOULD I TAKE MY SKILLS SOMEWHERE ELSE?
SOMEPLACE WARM.
SOMEPLACE DRY.
AM I GETTING THROUGH TO YOU HERE?


SLAM
SO WHY'D YOU WANNA SEE ME, WHY HERE, AND WHY SO LAST MINUTE LIKE THIS?
WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT I HAD TO RACE HALFWAY ACROSS KNOWN SPACE ON AN EMPTY STOMACH?
IT IS A LONG STORY.
YEAH, WELL, WITH YOU, WHAT ISN'T?
IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ADJUST THE CHRONOSPATIAL FILAMENTS ON A MOLECULAR LEVEL.
YOU GOT A VENTRILOQUIST'S DUMMY IN THE NEXT ROOM?
IT'S A--
YOU SAY "A LONG STORY" AGAIN AND I'M SO TAKING YOU DOWN.
I WILL EXPLAIN OVER DINNER.
FOR ANOTHER, THIS WOULD BE A NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE CHALLENGE, BUT NOT FOR--
KER-BLAMMM
...WHOA!
YOU MAY SIT WHEREVER YOU LIKE.
IF THERE'S ANY CUISINE MISSING FROM MY TABLE--
--IT DOESN'T EXIST.
...MAMA, BUY ME THAT...


TWENTY MINUTES LATER.
--AND I GOTTA BE HONEST, AFTER YOU AND I SWAPPED BODIES* AND I STARTED SLINGING AROUND WORDS LIKE DOOM'S A GENIUS, THE REST OF THE GUARDIANS WEREN'T WHAT I'D DESCRIBE AS HAPPY WITH ME--
NO, I WOULD IMAGINE NOT.
--BUT FINDING SOMEONE ALMOST AS SMART AS I AM, WELL--
THE BOOKS YOU ARE SITTING ON--
*SEE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY (2020) #14. --EDITOR


WHATABOUTEM?
--SOME ARE THE ONLY KNOWN COPIES DATING AS EARLY AS THE TWELFTH CENTURY.
YEAH? THAT EXPLAINS WHY THE COVERS ARE SO SOFT AND COMFY. THEY MOLD RIGHT TO MY ASS.
(GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY (2020) #14, PAGE 15. --ASSOC. EDITOR)

IT IS TIME NOW TO KNOW WHY YOU HAVE BEEN SUMMONED.
BUUUURP
(THEY DON'T NEED TO KNOW THE PAGE NUMBER, JUST THE ISSUE. SERIOUSLY, THEY CAN FIND IT FOR THEMSELVES. --EDITOR)

SORRY. YOU WERE SAYING.
(LOOK, I'M JUST TRYING TO BE THOROUGH. IT'S MY JOB. --ASSOC. EDITOR)
(NOBODY ASKED YOU, AND WE'RE NOT HAVING THIS CONVERSATION AGAIN. TALK TO THE WRIST, THE HAND ISN'T LISTENING. --EDITOR)

IT IS, AS I SAID, A LONG STORY.
SWELL.
(FINE. WHATEVER. --ASSOC. EDITOR)

"MY MOTHER...A PROUD WOMAN OF ROMA DESCENT... BECAME A SORCERESS TO AVENGE THE ABUSES HEAPED UPON HER PEOPLE, AND FOR THAT WAS MURDERED BY MEPHISTO.
"MY FATHER, A DOCTOR, A GOOD AND DECENT MAN, WAS WRONGLY BLAMED FOR THE DEATH OF A MEMBER OF THE ROYALTY, AND WE WERE FORCED TO FLEE. HE GAVE HIS LIFE TO SAVE MINE, KEEPING ME WARM IN A BLIZZARD WITH HIS OWN DYING BODY.
"I CAME TO AMERICA SEEKING THE KNOWLEDGE TO CURE THE ILLS OF THE WORLD, ONLY TO SEE MY HOPES DASHED AND MY FACE DISFIGURED, BECOMING THE MONSTER YOU SEE BEFORE YOU.
"LOST AND WOUNDED, BROKEN ON THE WHEEL OF A WORLD BUILT ON UNSPEAKABLE CRUELTY, I STAGGERED INTO A TEMPLE, A PLACE DEDICATED TO FREEING THE MIND... AND FORGED THE PRISON I WEAR EVERY DAY...THE MASK THAT HIDES A FACE OF RAGE AND SORROW THAT I CAN NEVER REMOVE.

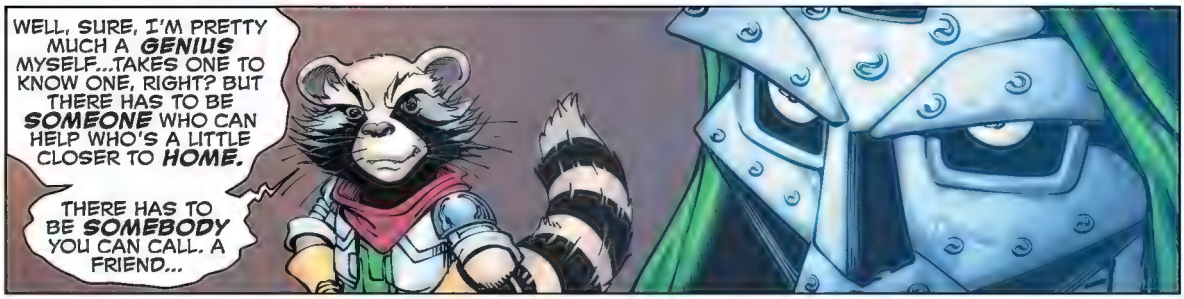
"FOR EVERY ACTION, THERE IS AN EQUAL AND OPPOSITE *REACTION.* I UNLEASHED A PARADE OF HORRORS, OUTRAGES, THEFTS, MANIPULATIONS AND MURDERS.
"THERE WAS NO *FAMILIAL JOY* I DID NOT TRY TO DESTROY--
"--NO *PURITY* I DID NOT SEEK TO CORRUPT--
"--NO *POWER* I DID NOT TRY TO STEAL, BECAUSE IT WAS ONLY IN POWER THAT I SAW THE MEANS TO TAKE MY REVENGE.
"BUT EACH TIME, I WAS *DEFEATED.* BROKEN. UNTIL FINALLY, WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY, I BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND THAT I HAD ALWAYS, ONLY AND EVER BEEN ON THE *WRONG SIDE* OF HISTORY.
"WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE CAME TWO THINGS: A DESIRE TO DO BETTER, TO BE BETTER.
"AND *A QUESTION.*"

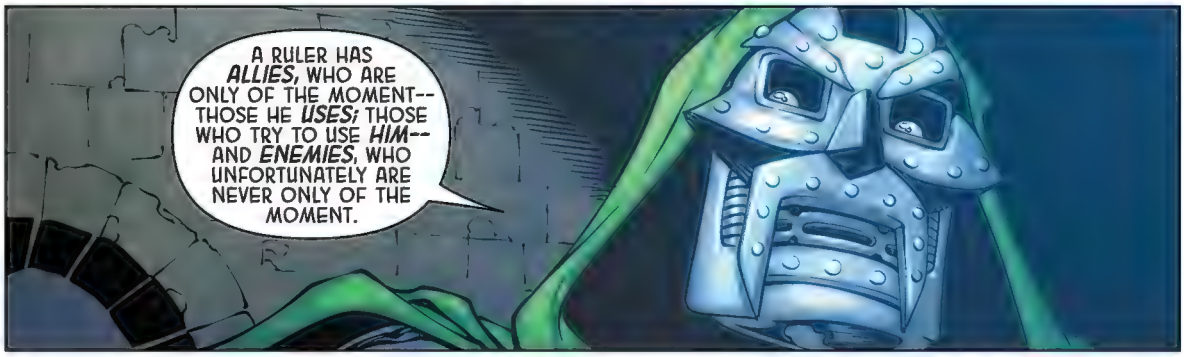
WHAT'S THE QUESTION?
WHY?
BECAUSE I'M CURIOUS.
I TOLD YOU.
YOU TOLD ME WHAT?
NO, I TOLD YOU *WHY*.
I DON'T *CARE*--
NO ONE DOES.
I'M JUST ASKING YOU, WHAT'S THE QUESTION--
NO, *WHY* IS THE QUESTION--
LOOK, PAL, *YOU* BROUGHT THIS UP IN THE FIRST PLACE--
I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU--
THEN WHAT'S THE QUESTION?
WHY IS THE QUESTION--
SAY THAT AGAIN AND I'M COMING OVER THERE.
SAY WHAT?
SIGH OKAY...LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN.

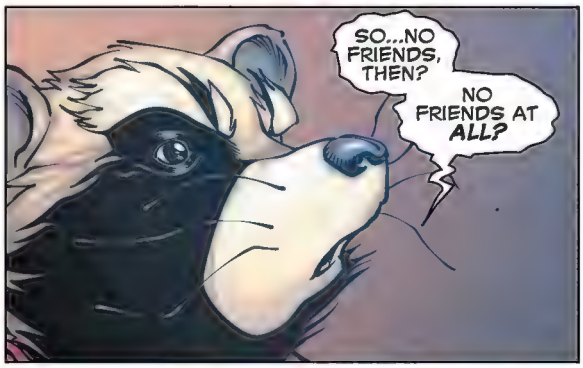
ONE HOUR AND SEVEN MINUTES LATER.
OKAY, STOP, STOP... I THINK I'VE GOT IT.
AS YOU WISH.
YOU'RE SAYING THE QUESTION IS WHY DID ALL THIS TERRIBLE STUFF HAPPEN TO YOU... AND WHY DID ALL THE OTHER TERRIBLE STUFF HAVE TO HAPPEN TO OTHER PEOPLE BECAUSE OF YOU?
KIRBY'S
YES.
COME WITH ME.
MANY YEARS AGO, I CONSTRUCTED A TIME PLATFORM THAT ALLOWED ME TO GO FORWARD AND BACKWARD IN TIME. BUT NOW I NEED TO GO FARTHER THAN I HAVE EVER GONE BEFORE.
TO THAT END, I HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THIS...A DEVICE THAT CAN GO PLACES WHERE THE TIME PLATFORM COULD NOT.
IF YOU ARE ALL THAT I THINK YOU ARE, IF YOU CAN DO WHAT I THINK YOU CAN DO, TELL ME THE PROBLEM I'M DESCRIBING.

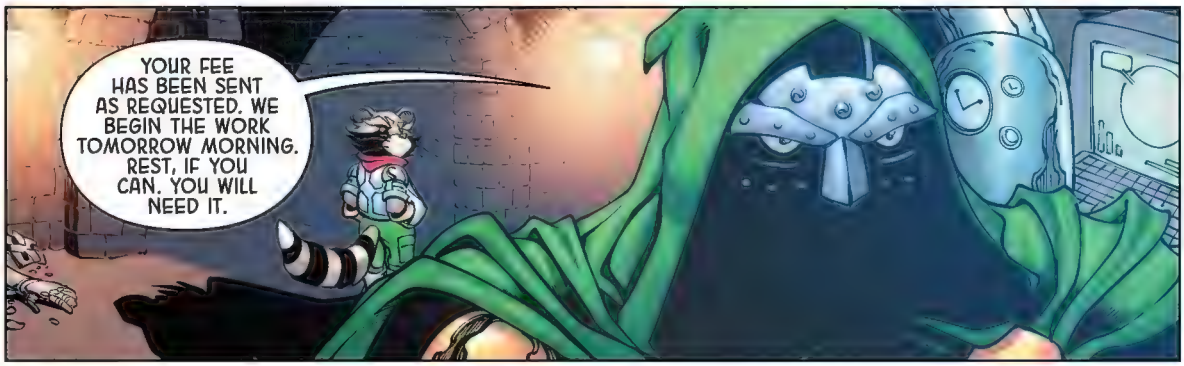
IF YOU CAN ALREADY GO BACK AND FORTH IN TIME, THEN THE ONLY PLACE YOU COULDN'T GO IS SOMEPLACE WHERE SPACE-TIME COORDINATES WOULDN'T WORK, WOULDN'T EVEN APPLY.
BUT THE MOMENT YOU TAKE TIME OUT OF THE EQUATION, THERE'S NOTHING FOR THE TIME PLATFORM TO LOCK ONTO. THAT'S THE PROBLEM YOU CAN'T SOLVE.
TIME EXISTS BECAUSE SPACE EXISTS, AND SPACE ONLY CAME INTO EXISTENCE AFTER THE BIG BANG.
IF I'M RIGHT, YOU WANT SOMETHING THAT CAN TAKE YOU BACK TO BEFORE THERE WAS SUCH A THING AS TIME.
YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO GO BACK TO THE BIG BANG--
NO. WE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AT THAT MOMENT AND ALL THE MOMENTS THEREAFTER. THERE IS NOTHING FOR ME TO FIND THERE.
--YOU WANT TO GO BACK BEFORE THE BIG BANG.
WHY?
EXACTLY.
DON'T START. REALLY... WHY?
SCIENCE HAS TOLD US HOW THE UNIVERSE CAME INTO EXISTENCE. BUT NO ONE HAS YET SAID WHY IT WAS BIRTHED.
IT IS MY PURPOSE TO GO BACK TO THAT TIMELESS MOMENT AND ASK THAT QUESTION. TO ASK WHY.
WHY WAS I SET ON THE PATH I HAD TO FOLLOW, AND WHY WERE SO MANY HURT ALONG THE WAY?
WHY ARE WE HERE? WHY ALL THIS? WHY... EVERYTHING?

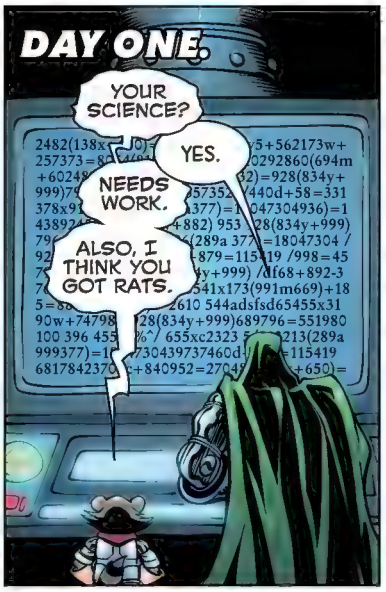
SO WHERE DO I COME IN?
THE WORK IS A COMBINATION OF SCIENCE AND MAGIC. I CAN HANDLE THE LATTER, BUT I NEED SOMEONE TO ASSIST WITH THE FORMER.
WHEN WE SWITCHED BODIES, I SAW YOUR MIND AND RECOGNIZED SOMEONE WHO COULD WORK WITH ME. I TRIED USING DOOMBOTS, BUT THEY DO NOT POSSESS YOUR SKILLS.


WELL, SURE, I'M PRETTY MUCH A GENIUS MYSELF...TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE, RIGHT? BUT THERE HAS TO BE SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP WHO'S A LITTLE CLOSER TO HOME.
THERE HAS TO BE SOMEBODY YOU CAN CALL. A FRIEND...


A RULER HAS ALLIES, WHO ARE ONLY OF THE MOMENT--THOSE HE USES; THOSE WHO TRY TO USE HIM--AND ENEMIES, WHO UNFORTUNATELY ARE NEVER ONLY OF THE MOMENT.


SO...NO FRIENDS, THEN?
NO FRIENDS AT ALL?


YOUR FEE HAS BEEN SENT AS REQUESTED. WE BEGIN THE WORK TOMORROW MORNING. REST, IF YOU CAN. YOU WILL NEED IT.


DAY ONE.
YOUR SCIENCE?
YES.
NEEDS WORK.
ALSO, I THINK YOU GOT RATS.

ZZZZOOOO
ZZZZOOOO

I'M NOT COMPLAINING, I'M JUST SAYING YOU COULD MAYBE USE A GOOD PIZZA PLACE AROUND HERE.

DAY TWO.
YOUR MAGIC?
YES.
NEEDS WORK.
I WOULDN'T TOUCH THAT BUTTON, IF I WERE YOU.
THIS BUTTON?

EEEEEEE

I DID TRY TO WARN YOU.
YEAH, FINE, WHATEVER.

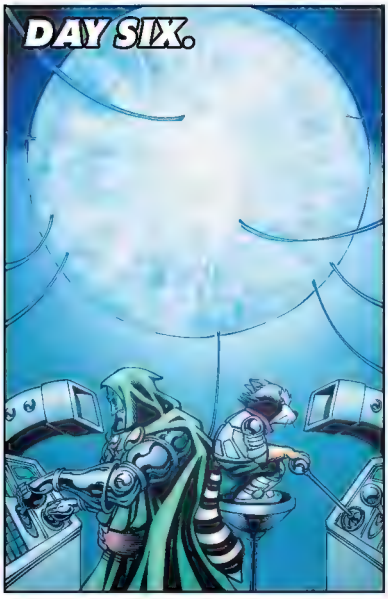
DAY THREE.

DAY FOUR.

DAY FIVE.
"I FIGURED IT OUT."

I CAN SEE NOW WHY YOU WERE STUCK, NOT HAVING ACCESS TO MY LEVEL OF GENIUS--
YOU KNOW I CAN HAVE YOU KILLED WITH A GESTURE.
WHAT KIND OF GESTURE?
LET IT BE A SURPRISE. CONTINUE.
ALL TIME MACHINES WORK THE SAME WAY. YOU ENTER THE YEAR, DATE AND TIME YOU WANT TO VISIT, AND OFF YOU GO.
YOU MOVE THROUGH TIME. BUT BEFORE THE BIG BANG THERE ARE NO YEARS, DATES OR TIMES. SO WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?
YOU DON'T MOVE THROUGH TIME.
YOU MOVE THROUGH ENTROPY.
THE STABILIZATION THEORIES OF TIME AND SPACE SAY THAT TIME SHOULD FLOW BACKWARD AND FORWARD EQUALLY AND RANDOMLY. BUT IT DOESN'T.
TIME MOVES FORWARD BECAUSE IT'S LINKED TO ENTROPY, WHICH BEGAN AT THE BIG BANG AND HAS BEEN BUILDING TOWARD A STATE OF EQUILIBRIUM EVER SINCE.
TIME IS STABLE, WHICH ALLOWS US TO TRAVEL TO FIXED POINTS IN TIME.
(IS THIS A REAL THING? I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WOULD BE MATH INVOLVED. --ASSOC. EDITOR)
(YES, IT'S REAL...NOW BE QUIET, I'M TRYING TO FOLLOW THIS. --EDITOR)

BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO TRAVEL THROUGH TIME IF WE CAN MODIFY YOUR TECH TO REDUCE OUR ENTROPY. THEN WE'RE NOT MOVING THROUGH TIME--TIME IS FLOWING IN REVERSE THROUGH AND AROUND US.
UMPH, HANG ON--
IF WE CAN REVERSE ENTROPY TO THE ZERO POINT THAT WAS PRESENT AT THE MOMENT OF THE BIG BANG--
--THEN ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GO ONE STEP FURTHER, LOWERING THE LEVEL OF ENTROPY FROM ZERO TO MINUS-1. ONCE WE DO THAT, WE'LL BE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BIG BANG, RIGHT BEFORE WHATEVER HAPPENED... HAPPENED.
BUT HOW WILL WE FIND THE NEXUS POINT AT THE MOMENT THE CHANGE OCCURRED?
WE DON'T HAVE TO. IF WE'RE IN SPACELESS TIME AND TIMELESS SPACE, THERE IS NO NEXUS POINT OR MOMENT BECAUSE NEITHER OF THOSE EXISTS.
ONCE WE'RE PAST THE EDGE OF ENTROPY, WE DON'T NEED TO BE ANYWHERE BECAUSE WE'RE EVERYWHERE AND NOWHERE, EXACTLY WHERE WE NEED TO BE TO SEE WHY THE UNIVERSE CAME INTO BEING.
PAT PAT
NEVER DO THAT AGAIN.
THOR SAID YOU LIKED IT.
HE LIED.
VERY WELL.
RABBIT.


DAY SIX.

DAY SEVEN.

DAY EIGHT.
WHY IS IT EVERY TIME WE PLAY THIS STUPID GAME YOU END UP WITH EVERY HOTEL ON THE BOARD?
I UNDERSTAND CAPITALISM.
SO... COULD YOU TEACH ME CRYPTO?
YOU ARE NOT YET READY.
NO ONE IS.

DAY NINE.

DAY TEN.
SO ARE THESE PARAPETS, BULWARKS OR BASTIONS?
IT MATTERS NOT, THEY ARE MINE.
YEAH, BUT YOU THINK EVERYTHING THAT'S NOT NAILED DOWN IS YOURS...AND IF YOU CAN PRY IT UP, IT AIN'T NAILED DOWN.
SILENCE, MINION.

DAY ELEVEN.

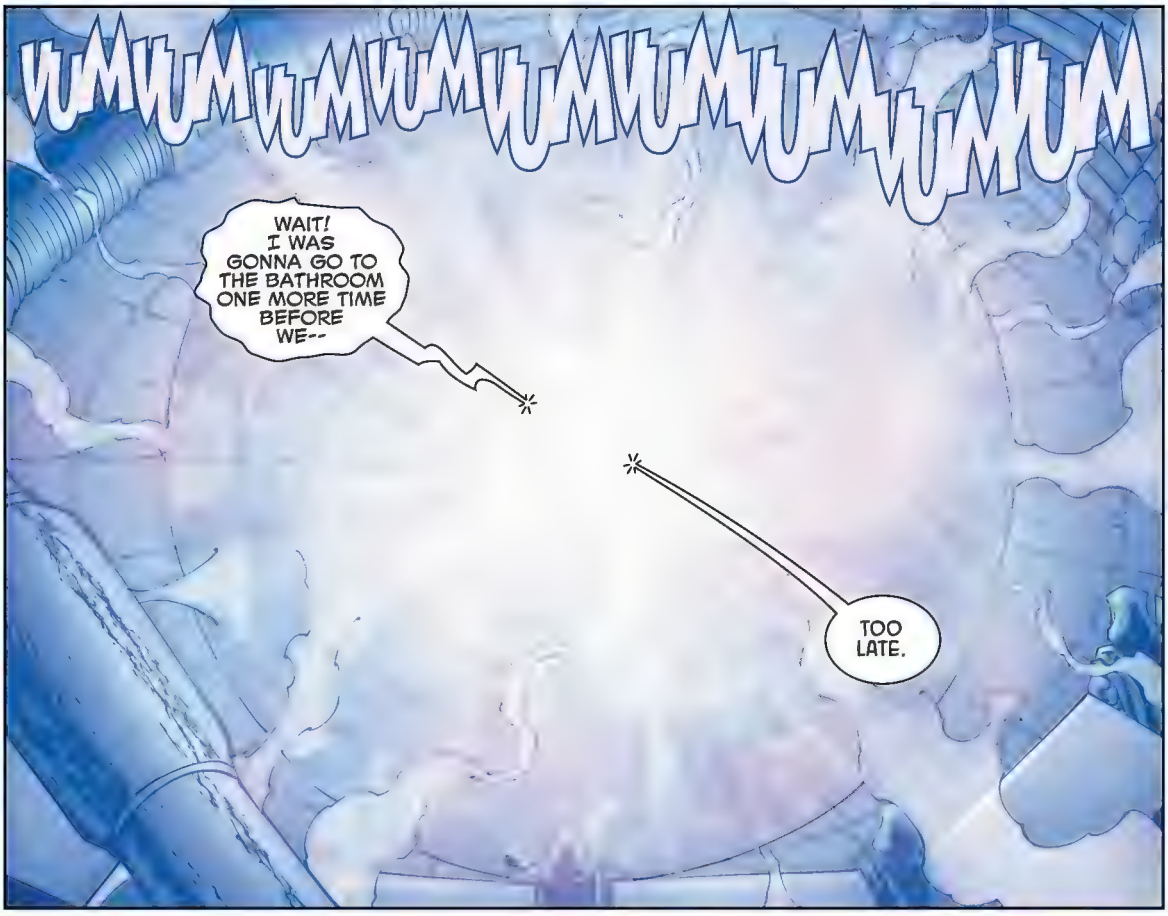
DAY TWELVE.
STAY AWAY FROM THE BOX.
IT CONTAINS TERRIBLE POWER.
WHY?
ALSO DUST BUNNIES. SO WHY'D YOU DRAG IT OUT?
YOU'LL SEE. JUST DO NOT COME CLOSER IF YOU VALUE...ANYTHING.

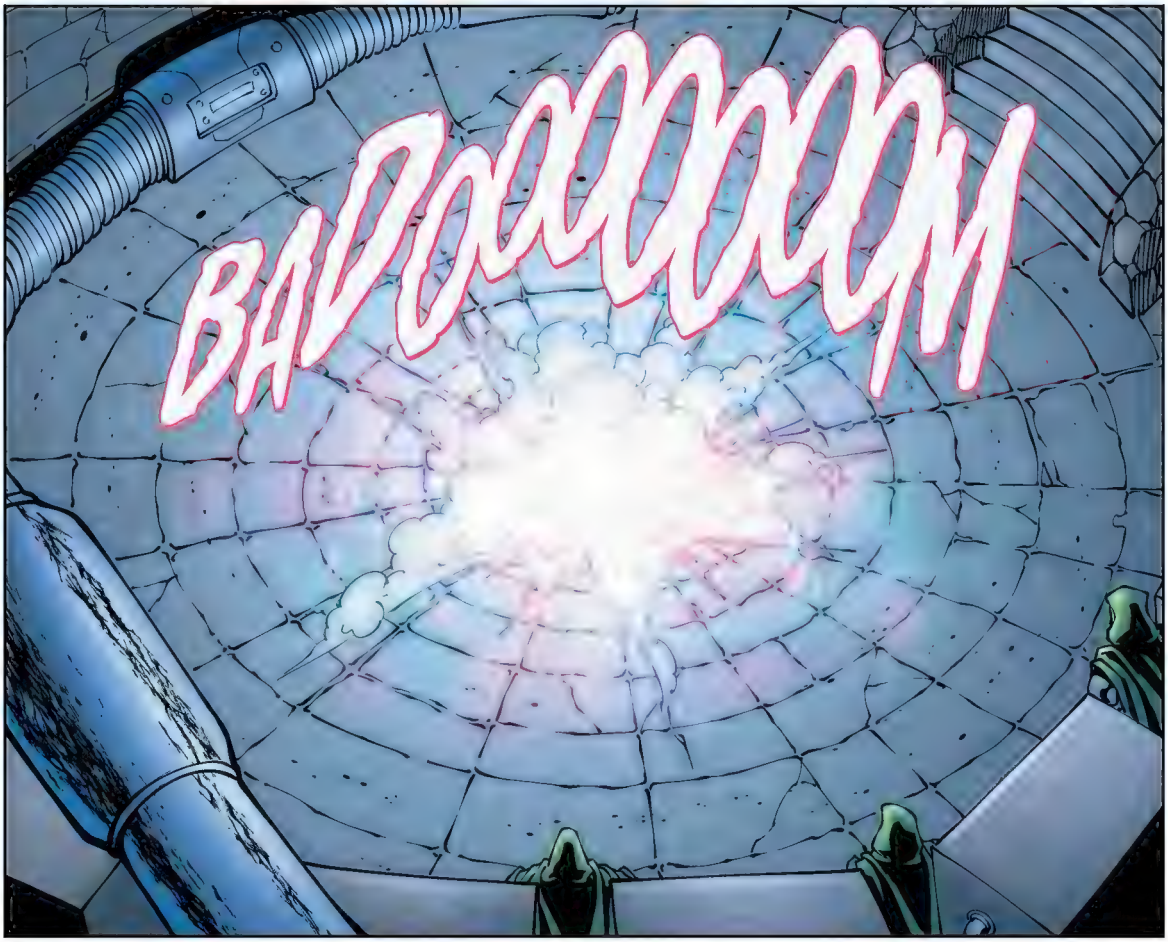
DAY THIRTEEN.
YO, DOC, WE'RE JUST ABOUT GOOD TO GO.

ONLY THING WE NEED IS A POWER SOURCE, AND YOU SAID YOU HAD ALL THAT--

--COVERED...
DO NOT... INTERFERE...DO NOT...SPEAK.
I CONJURE AND COMMAND THEE... DESCEND AND BE IN SERVICE TO MY WISHES...BY MY WILL AND BY MY BLOOD, YOU SHALL SUBMIT!
SHHOOOM
SLAM
THE RITUAL IS COMPLETE. WE HAVE OUR ENERGY SOURCE, DERIVED FROM THE VAST COSMIC FORCES THAT BALANCE LIFE AND DEATH THEMSELVES.
NOW WE MAY DEPART.

STEERING'S A LITTLE LOOSE... PULLS A BIT TO THE LEFT.
IT WILL SUFFICE. THE PATH I INTEND TO WALK IS DANGEROUS. YOU NEED NOT COME.
YOU KIDDING? WOULDN'T MISS THIS FOR--
YO, WHAT'S THAT?
THE LAST COMPONENT OF OUR POWER SOURCE.
A PIECE OF MY SOUL, MADE MANIFEST.
PIECE OF YOUR SOUL. WOW. THAT MUST HAVE BEEN PAINFUL.
YES.
WAS THAT THE SCREAMING-IN-AGONY I HEARD LAST NIGHT?
EEIEH
DRAWING UPON A PIECE OF MYSELF, MY OWN LIFE AND PAST, WILL GIVE THE SPHERE MOMENTUM AND DIRECTION AS IT BEGINS ITS TRAJECTORY BACKWARD THROUGH TIME.
WILL IT ALSO OPEN THE GARAGE DOOR?
YEAH, I KNOW: SILENCE, MINION!
NO. THIS IS NO LONGER A TIME FOR SILENCE.
NOW... WE MAKE NOISE.


VUMVUMVUMVUMVUMVUMVUMVUM
WAIT! I WAS GONNA GO TO THE BATHROOM ONE MORE TIME BEFORE WE--
TOO LATE.


BADOOOOOM

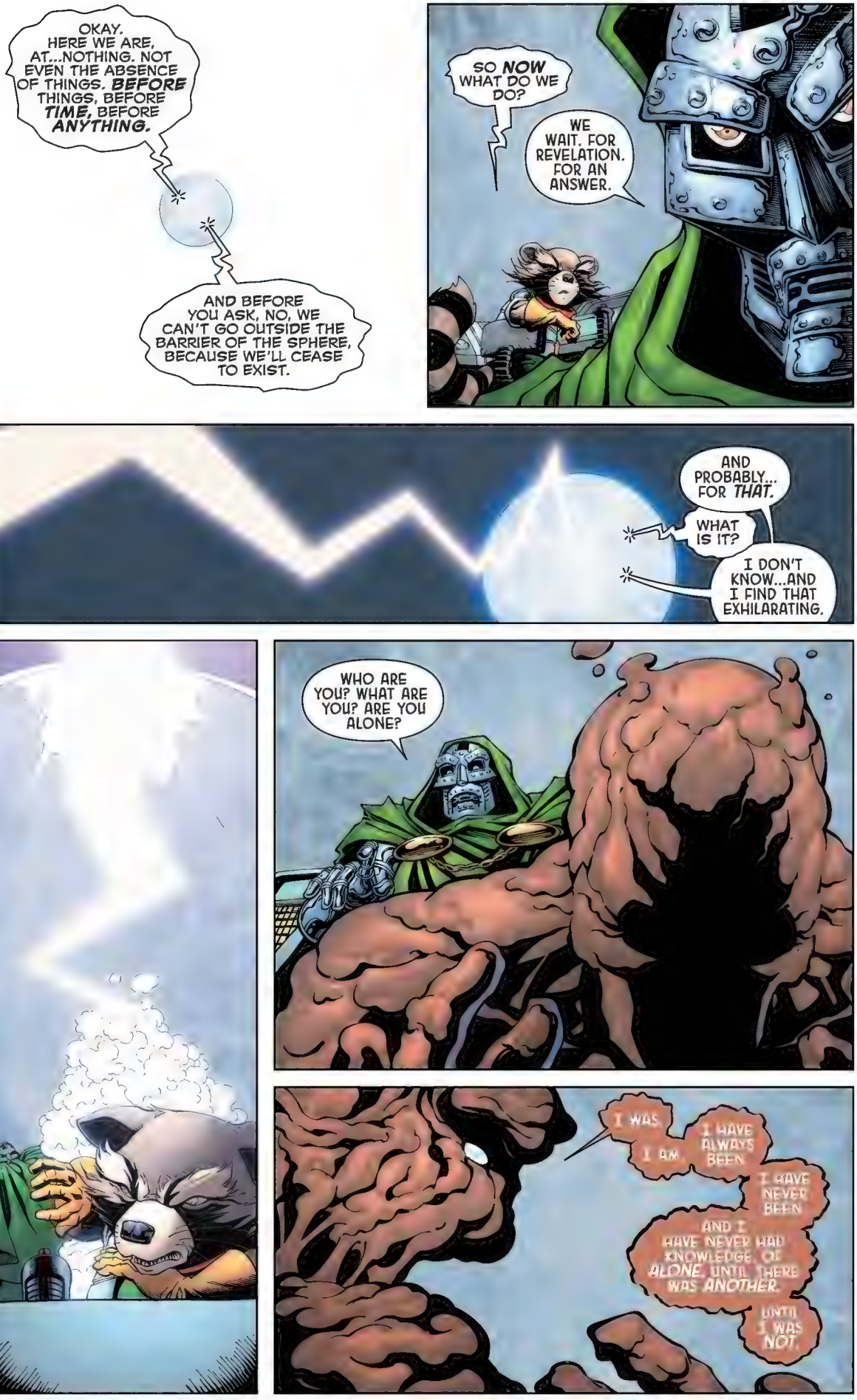
LOOKING GOOD. QUANTUM CHRONOMETER SHOWS WE'RE GOING BACKWARD IN TIME.
PICKING UP SPEED FAST. SHOULD BE AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERYTHING PRETTY SOON. ONE THING, THOUGH.
WE'VE BEEN SO BUSY I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO THINK ABOUT IT BEFORE, BUT...GIVEN THIS WASN'T THAT HARD FOR GENIUSES LIKE US TO FIGURE OUT, HOW COME SOME OTHER GENIUSES HAVEN'T TRIED THIS?
THEY HAVE.
THEN WHY HAVEN'T I HEARD ABOUT IT?
BECAUSE THEY NEVER RETURNED.
WHY NOT?
I IMAGINE IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THEM.
WHENEVER ONE ENTERS REGIONS OF CREATION CONSIDERED SACROSANCT, DARK FORCES ARE SENT TO DEAL WITH SUCH VIOLATIONS.
SWELL. SO WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO?

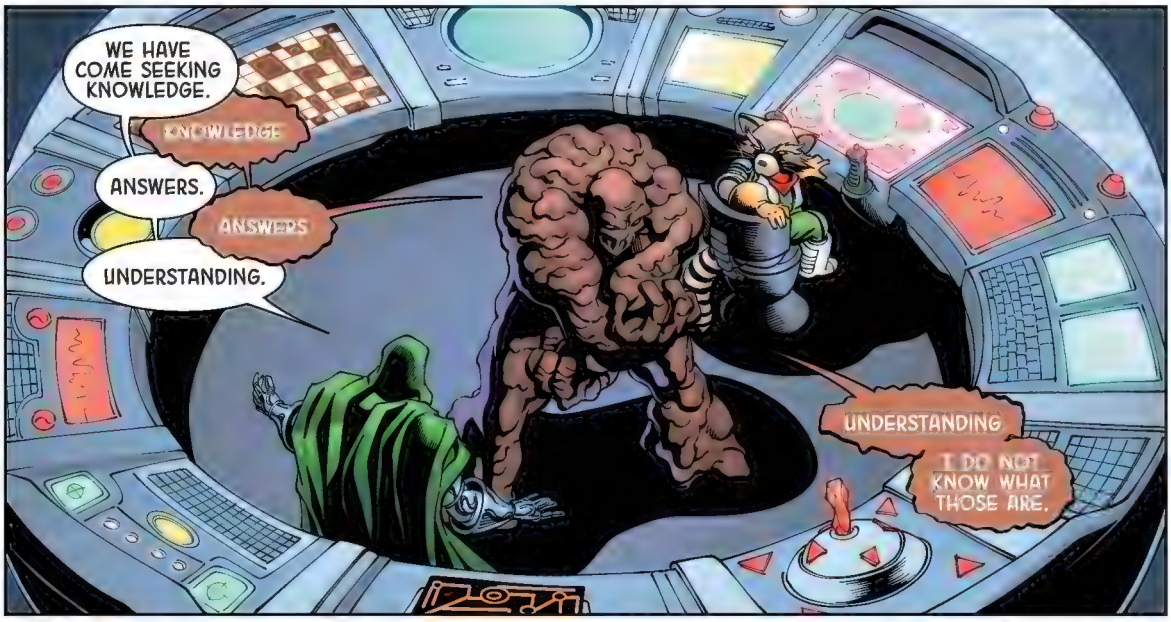
ENGAGE THE ENEMY.
YOU BUILT WEAPONS INTO THIS THING?
I BUILD WEAPONS INTO EVERYTHING. THAT IS WHY I AM DOOM.
COMPUTER... ELIMINATE TARGETS.
CONFIRMED.
THAT WAS EASY. TOO EASY.
THE WEAPONS KEPT THEM AWAY UNTIL WE LOCKED TEMPORAL TRAJECTORIES. THEY DID NOT WANT TO GET CAUGHT IN THE BACKWASH.
WHAT BACKWASH?
THE WEIGHT OF MY PAST, PULLING US DEEPER.

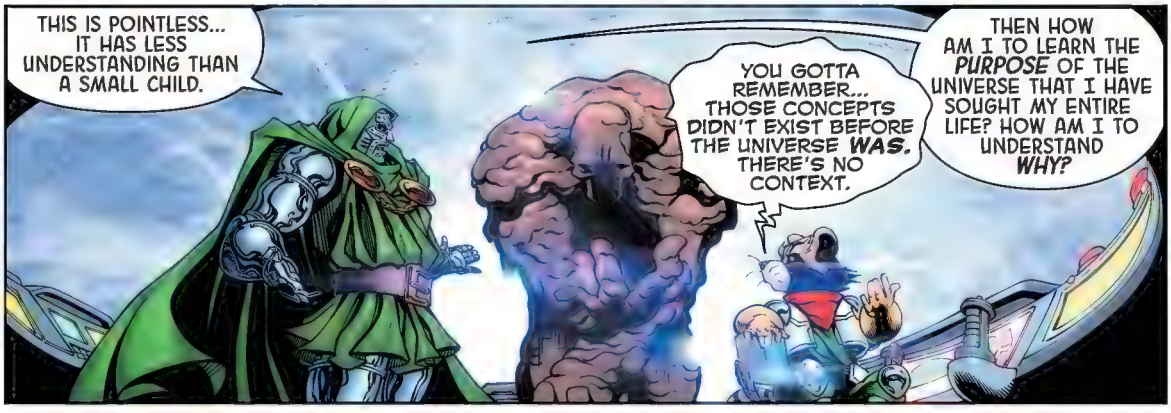
EEEK!
FIND REED RICHARDS!
WOW!
WHO...?
GALACTUS REVIVED?

UMM... DOC? WE'VE REACHED--
YES. I KNOW.
LIVE, MY SON...TAKE THE WARMTH FROM MY HEART FOR YOUR OWN--
--FOR YOU ARE LOVED, YOU ARE IMPORTANT--
--YOU ARE AN ARTIST, MY SON. WHAT ARE YOU MAKING NOW?
BEAUTIFUL.
SO BEAUTIFUL.
ACCELERATE OUR TRAJECTORY. I WISH TO SEE NO MORE OF THIS.
I DON'T THINK WE HAVE MUCH CHOICE--

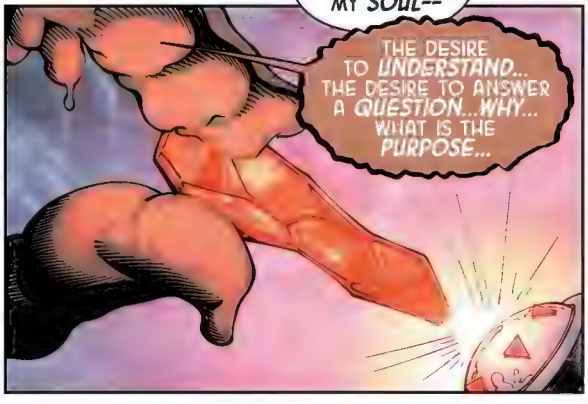
--THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO SEE ANYMORE.
WE'VE REACHED THE BIG BANG, DOC... THE BIRTH OF THE UNIVERSE.
CAN WE JUST... YOU KNOW...TAKE A MOMENT TO--?
NO.
ENTROPY... MINUS... ONE.
NOW!
--PENING?


OKAY. HERE WE ARE, AT...NOTHING. NOT EVEN THE ABSENCE OF THINGS. BEFORE THINGS, BEFORE TIME, BEFORE ANYTHING.
AND BEFORE YOU ASK, NO, WE CAN'T GO OUTSIDE THE BARRIER OF THE SPHERE, BECAUSE WE'LL CEASE TO EXIST.
SO NOW WHAT DO WE DO?
WE WAIT. FOR REVELATION. FOR AN ANSWER.
AND PROBABLY... FOR THAT.
WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW...AND I FIND THAT EXHILARATING.
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU? ARE YOU ALONE?
I WAS.
I AM.
I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN.
I HAVE NEVER BEEN.
AND I HAVE NEVER HAD KNOWLEDGE OF ALONE UNTIL THERE WAS ANOTHER.
UNTIL I WAS NOT.


WE HAVE COME SEEKING KNOWLEDGE.
KNOWLEDGE
ANSWERS.
ANSWERS
UNDERSTANDING.
UNDERSTANDING
I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THOSE ARE.


THIS IS POINTLESS... IT HAS LESS UNDERSTANDING THAN A SMALL CHILD.
YOU GOTTA REMEMBER... THOSE CONCEPTS DIDN'T EXIST BEFORE THE UNIVERSE WAS. THERE'S NO CONTEXT.
THEN HOW AM I TO LEARN THE PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSE THAT I HAVE SOUGHT MY ENTIRE LIFE? HOW AM I TO UNDERSTAND WHY?

PURPOSE. WHY.
HERE. IT IS HERE
WHAT IS HERE?
CURIOSITY...A WORD I DID NOT KNOW BEFORE BECAUSE I DID NOT KNOW OF WORDS BEFORE NOW...ALSO HUNGER AND DESIRE.
NO...DON'T TOUCH THAT...IT HAS PIECES OF MY SOUL--


THE DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND... THE DESIRE TO ANSWER A QUESTION...WHY... WHAT IS THE PURPOSE...

...OR A THING THAT IS ABOUT TO BE CALLED THE UNIVERSE.

WHAT IS TO BE THE PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSE?
IT IS THE PURPOSE YOU HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN, THE CURIOSITY YOU HAVE CHASED, THE PAIN YOU HAVE SUFFERED, AND THE UNDERSTANDING THAT HAS BROUGHT YOU TO THIS TIMELESS MOMENT.
THE PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSE--
--IS TO UNDERSTAND--
--THE PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSE.

EVOLVING THROUGH *PAIN* AND *UNCERTAINTY* UNTIL THE DAY WHEN THAT PURPOSE IS FINALLY *DEFINED*, AND *UNDERSTOOD*, AND MADE *MANIFEST*.
UNTIL THE DAY ARRIVES THAT THE QUESTION IS FINALLY *ANSWERED*. AND ON THAT DISTANT DAY--
--WE BEGIN AGAIN.
THE LIGHT SWITCH IS OVER THERE, DOC.
WOW, THAT WAS--
LOOK, NOTHING PERSONAL, BUT AFTER THAT, I REALLY NEED TO USE THE LITTLE RACCOON'S ROOM. LIKE, RIGHT NOW.

ONE HOUR AND THREE FLUSHES LATER...
A DOOMBOT IS READY TO TAKE YOU BACK TO YOUR SHIP.
THAT'S IT? WE'RE DONE AND--
I APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE--
I'M NOT LOOKING FOR THANKS. DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED?
WE JUST ANSWERED THE BIGGEST QUESTION IN THE HISTORY OF EVERYTHING.
THE UNIVERSE WAS CREATED TO FIND THE KIND OF PURPOSE THAT DRIVES YOU...IT WAS CREATED IN YOUR IMAGE.
EVERYTHING YOU WENT THROUGH, EVERYTHING YOU ENDURED... THE GOOD AND THE BAD, THE SUFFERING AND THE PAIN, AND THE NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHY...ALL OF IT SHAPED YOU, THE ONE PERSON WHO WOULD ASK THE RIGHT QUESTION AT EXACTLY THE RIGHT TIME TO CREATE EVERYTHING.
DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT?
YES.

"THE ANSWER I RECEIVED IS NOT THE ONE I WENT LOOKING TO *FIND*. BUT IT IS THE ANSWER I SHOULD HAVE *EXPECTED*.
"FOR AS YOU SAY, THE UNIVERSE WAS CREATED IN *MY IMAGE*.
"AND WE *ALL* HAVE OUR MASKS TO WEAR."
THE END.

NEXT ISSUE

ON SALE IN FEBRUARY

VOLSTAGG RECRUITS THE SENTINEL OF LIBERTY!

When a war breaks out in the Ten Realms, Volstagg of the Warriors Three turns to the only man skilled enough to end it: Steve Rogers, Captain America! JMS teams with visionary artist Bernard Chang for the second in a series of one-shots bringing unlikely Marvel characters together for tales like no other!

ON SALE IN MARCH

ON SALE IN MAY

CHECKLIST

- ■ DOCTOR DOOM & ROCKET RACCOON #1
- □ CAPTAIN AMERICA & VOLSTAGG #1
- □ NICK FURY VS. FIN FANG FOOM #1
- □ HULK & DOCTOR STRANGE #1
- □ GHOST RIDER VS. GALACTUS #1
- □ SPIDER-MAN VS. THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #1